THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the current financial year 1988-89, Bhuaneshwar Telephone Exchange Unit-I has been expanded from 7000 to 8000 lines. A new 4000 lines electronic E-10B exchange is proposed at Bhubaneshwar during 1989-91. Cuttack telephone exchange Unit II is proposed to be expanded from 1000 to 3000 lines during 1988-89.

(c) and (d) The exchanges at other places of Orissa are proposed to be expanded as per the Seventh Plan objectives of the Department in this regard. During 1988-89, the NEAX exchanges at Dhenkanal, and Baripada have already been expanded from 600 to 700 lines & 600 to 1000 lines respectively. The manual exchanges at Koraput & Phulbani have been converted and expanded from 240 to 400 lines and 300 to 400 lines Electronic exchanges (NEAX) respectively during 1988-89. The exchanges at Sambalpur, Berhampur, Rourkela Plant, Rourkela township, Balasore, Paradeep, Bargarh, Jharsuguda, Bhadrak; Puri, Bolangir, Angul, Bhawanipatna and Mancheswar are also proposed to be expanded. Manual and MAX-III exchanges some other places are proposed to be replaced and expanded and new exchanges are proposed at some other places subject to the availability of minimum demand. This work is in various stages of implementaton and is likely to be completed by the end of Seventh Plan. A sum of Rs. 5.48 crore is proposed for local telephone system in the budget allocation for Orissa for the year 1988-89.

Funding pattern of Ib valley Thermal Power Plant

1274. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken a decision regarding funding pattern of Ib Valley Thermal Power Plant in the State of Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what would be the total cost of the project and the quantity of electriciy to be generated after completion of the project; and

(d) on which dates the Planning Commission and Government had given their sanction to the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (d) In April, 1987, the Planning Commission approved the Ib Valley Thermal Power Project (4x210 MW) at an estimated cost of Rs. 887.99 crores in the State Sector. The funding pattern is to be determined by the State authorities.

The Orissa Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) have placed a letter of intent on M|s. BHEL with the stipulation that the financing and prices would be settled through negotiations. Negotiations between M|s. OPGC and M|s. BHEL are in progress for the installation of two units, with provision of infrastructure for four units.

ED employees

1275. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that school teachers and retired Government employees are also working as ED employees; and

(b) if so, what is their number as on 31.10.88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.